

THREATENED CRISIS.

DIPLOMACY AVERTS INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS.

How a Negro Justice of the Peace Held a British Vessel With a Writ of "No Exeat Regnum"—The Writ Was Dissolved in Liquor and a Laugh Went Around.

During the reign of the carpetbaggers in Georgia a very black but brainy old negro named Tunis G. Campbell came down from the north and became one of the leaders of his race.

In the course of time Campbell was made a justice of the peace at the port of Darien. Then the trouble began in earnest.

Justice Campbell had no use for the whites because he knew that they cordially hated him.

But he did not confine his animosity to Georgians or to Democrats. He employed a number of negro constables, authorized them to carry weapons, and in a short time made his court a terror to the community.

So much by way of introduction. One summer a British sailing vessel came to Darien and took on a cargo of naval stores. Before getting ready to sail the captain settled everything due from him and his crew—that is, everything in the way of a just account. He secured his papers, when several negro traders of the lowest class unexpectedly put in claims for goods that had never been purchased.

These cornorants alleged that the captain and his sailors were indebted to them for meals, merchandise, lodging and other things.

It was evident that these claims were fraudulent, and the captain continued his preparations for his departure.

The afternoon he was to weigh anchor Justice Campbell held a consultation with a shyster lawyer.

"I want to hold that—foreigner here," said Campbell, "until he settles these bills!"

"In England," replied the lawyer, "when you want to prevent people from leaving the country, you issue a writ of no exeat regnum."

Justice Campbell came near falling to the floor.

"Just say that again," he said excitedly.

"A writ of no exeat regnum."

"Tee—tee," said Campbell. "Well, I want you to draw up one and keep that fellow here."

The shyster's resources were limited, and he explained to his friend that regnum meant kingdom, and as this country was a republic there would have to be a change in the verbage.

"Change it," commanded the black justice.

The lawyer then admitted that he knew very little Latin, and for that reason was somewhat embarrassed.

"This is a republic," he said.

"All right," was the prompt reply of Campbell. "Draw up a writ of no exeat regnum."

"I am afraid it is bad Latin," objected the lawyer.

"I'll make it stick," answered the justice. "I'll sign the paper and swear in six special constables to enforce it."

This was enough, and the lawyer proceeded to draw up the most remarkable document ever seen in America.

The writ covered 20 pages of foolscap and ordered the Englishman, under the severest pains and penalties, to remain with his ship at Darien until he settled all claims.

It was a sultry August afternoon, and the vessel was about ready to depart, when it was loarded by Justice Campbell and six negro constables armed with guns.

The justice read the writ to the captain, and after informing him that the constables would remain until the matter was adjusted the judicial tyrant went ashore again.

The captain retired to the cabin with the mate and talked it over.

Finally a plan of action was agreed upon, and when the ship's officers reappeared they were apparently in a good humor. They told the constables that they were welcome as the representatives of the law and requested them to enjoy the freedom of the vessel.

The constables were overwhelmed with tobacco and cigars and an occasional dram until their suspicions vanished.

Then the captain and his crew displayed still more hospitality, and the bottle was freely passed around.

At midnight six negro constables were in a drunken slumber, the effect of their drugged liquor, and the captain and his men were wide awake and perfectly sober.

The blacks were carefully deposited in a boat and set adrift in the harbor, and then the British sloop quietly weighed anchor and left the port at an hour when Justice Campbell was dreaming of his new and wonderful writ of no exeat regnum.

The constables were picked up next day and sent to jail for neglect of duty, but the vessel was then beyond reach.

The British captain went straight to Savannah, where he laid his case before his consul and demanded an apology and an indemnity from the United States government.

The consul found it difficult to keep his face straight when he heard the story.

"It is an outrage," he said to the captain, "but it is a peculiar one and of a ludicrous nature. If I were you, I would not hold a friendly government responsible for the conduct of a few ignorant persons, who have not been free long enough to know their own rights and respect the rights of others."

It required a good deal of talk to appease the Englishman, but after he had been wine and dined by the merchants and had told his story a score of times, amid roars of laughter, he began to regard the affair as a good joke and agreed to let it drop.

And thus ended what threatened to be a serious international complication.

—Chicago Times-Herald.

The Dance Dictator.

The large private dances given in New York afford a means of livelihood to a number of women whose work does not appear conspicuously in the results as important as it really is. The lists of many of the hostesses that entertain in this way are taken charge of by young women who make a business of sending out invitations, overlooking lists and generally superintending the entire distribution of the invitations. This necessitates a revision of the names and the omission of all who happen to be no longer available for social entertainments from one cause or another. The women who attend to work of this kind relieve the hostess of all further responsibility than the delivery to her of the invitations. This is a particular relief to the people in society who happen to spend any considerable part of their time in Europe and are unfamiliar with the changes that take place in New York. One young woman and her mother have for several years made a very good living out of work of this kind, and there are a half dozen or more who devote their time to it. At many of the large balls a hostess never expects to know personally all the people she invites. Some of them play no more important part in her acquaintance than a place on her visiting list, and, that distinction having once been gained, it is likely to be secure until something very serious happens. One of the duties of the women who make a business of this sort of thing is to see that invitations do not go to people whose friends would be grieved by the suggestion of their attending a ball.—New York Sun.

The Senator's Striped Underwear.

A western senator, who has always been addicted to the habit of wearing striped underwear, had a narrow escape recently on that very account. The striped underwear worn by the distinguished senator looked for all the world like a prisoner's garb, but of course that aspect of the case did not suggest itself to the senator. While en route to Washington on one occasion the fact came to him in a striking way. It was on a sleeping car at night. The car pitched and threw him out of the lower berth on to the floor, clad in his striped underwear.

The lurch of the car startled other folks, too, and two ladies on the opposite side of the senator stuck their heads out to see what the commotion was all about. When they saw the senator crawling under cover in his striped garb, thinking he was an escaped convict they screamed, and pandemonium reigned. The porter was summoned, whereupon the ladies commanded him to remove the "convict."

It took all the "senatorial courtesy" the senator could rake up to prove an alibi, and he was finally able to demonstrate who he was, but he has since abandoned the idea of wearing striped underwear, having reached the conclusion that plain flannels without strip are much better and far safer.—Washington Post.

Indian Rainmakers.

All the Indian tribes had rainmakers, and some are yet left. This is one of their methods of operation: A large body of Creek Indians had gathered, all decked out in their best finery. Two elderly men retired a short distance and seemed to be mumbling to each other something like prayers or invocations. After some time a fire was made on the bank of the stream, when the two rainmakers gave an order, and a young man plunged into the river, which was there very deep. When he came up, he had a blue catfish in his hand, which one of the old men took and threw into the fire, the tribe looking on in perfect silence. Then there was more mumbling, accompanied by various contortions and gesticulations, when the gathering dispersed. It rained that night. Perhaps, on the whole, the Indian rainmaker is more generally successful than the civilized, one occasionally appearing on the frontier in times of drought, the former having a shrewder and more experienced forecast of weather probabilities and putting in his incantations at the right time.—New York Tribune.

Haste In Courtship.

Among the many faults of the nineteenth century is often reckoned haste. The world, one says, is full of hurry and bustle. Time is outrageously dear, yet in the business of courting men are marveled in patience and leisureliness when compared to what they were in the middle ages. They liked then to commence a courtship by what is regarded now as the next to the last word in it, "Will you marry me?" and they had little use for preliminaries. If the gentleman was wise and virtuous, she, of course, knew immediately what to say, for she previously had been informed of her suitor's fortune, as he of her dowry, and a few minutes only were necessary for the young people to see whether they were mutually agreeable or not.—Emily Stone in Lippincott's.

Revivified Habit.

The convict under sentence of solitary confinement had utterly collapsed. "For heaven's sake," he begged, "I must have rest! My conscience will not let me sleep—unless, I can listen to the chaplain's sermon!" Remembering that he had been a pillar of the church, they were disposed to grant his request. Habit, it must be remembered, is oftentimes more powerful even than drugs.—New York Press.

Swiss experts have come to the conclusion that more harm is done than prevented by roping climbers on glaciers. Tourists saved from a crevasse are often fatally injured by the rope cutting into the body. It is now proposed to obviate this by means of specially constructed broad belts.

The first British telegraph patent was granted in the year that Queen Victoria was crowned, 1827.

The British government still employs foreign mercenaries in its army? The Gorkhas, fine soldiers of Nepal, are employed in British India.

Tobacco statistics prove that two-thirds of the grown male population of the globe either smoke or chew the "weed."

His Excuse.

A young Londoner, who had never been out of London in his life, received an invitation from an acquaintance in the country, asking him to have a run over to his place for a few days and give him a lift at gathering mushrooms. This is the reply he got:

"Dear Jack—I'm very glad to hear as how you and the missus is all right, but I can't come over to see you, becos I'm afraid I would be no use at gathering mushrooms, for you know very well I can't climb."—Up to Date.

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